

EAST ASIA

# China, the “New Things” of New Year’s Eve



Published 3 years ago on January 12, 2020  
By **Dr.Luciano Maqaldi**

PUBLICATIONS

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The world's most massive seasonal migration begins. From 10th to 15th February 2020, as every year, millions of Chinese will move from one part of the country to the other to celebrate the Lunar New Year.



According to China State Railway Group, the public company that operates rail transport in the People's Republic, over five weeks, about 440 million rail journeys will be made (8% more than in 2019) with an average of 11 million transfers per day.



Comments

To cope with the rising numbers, 5,275 extra train journeys per day will be made available, while for the first time, in some train stations, it will be possible to access with digital tickets and carry out checks with facial recognition.

In Guangzhou and Shenzhen fast ticketing will allow, through facial recognition, to deduct the ticket fare directly from the WeChat Pay account of a traveler once they arrive at their destination.

### Hong Kong: one in five Adults suffer from Stress Disorder

The political crisis facing Hong Kong is rapidly compromising people's mental health -this is revealed by a study published in the authoritative lancet scientific journal that in 2019 – coinciding with the onset of anti-extradition protests – a third of Hong-Kong inhabitants in adulthood – almost 2 million people – have shown signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), up from 5% five years ago.

The survey, conducted by the University of Hong Kong, reveals a close relationship between the mental state of citizens and the massive circulation of strong images through social networks.

According to the researchers, the discomfort highlighted by the population of the former British colony is comparable to “the state of mental health reported as a result of large-scale disasters, armed conflicts or terrorist attacks.”

### Renewables: Greenpeace rejects Chinese Big High-tech Companies

Greenpeace has – for the first time ever – released a ranking of Chinese technology companies based on its commitment to the transition to renewables. Within two decades,

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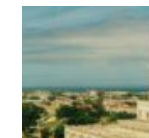
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cloud storage and data center services could account for one-third of global energy demand.

A sector that in China, in 2018, was powered by 73% of coal. But overall, the response of Chinese big tech discolours from what competitors in other countries have undertaken.

Among the 15 large companies considered by Greenpeace, only one – digital service provider Chindata – has committed to meet 100% of its energy needs through renewable sources, in line with what Apple and Google promised.

Among the companies that rely most on cloud computing, e-commerce giant Alibaba is the best performing in terms of transparency and emissions levels. But to date, 80% of the companies surveyed – with the exception of Tencent – have not made public data on electricity consumption or greenhouse gas emissions.

Huawei is the only company to have set pollutant reduction targets

### **Virus from the Strange Pneumonia Epidemics identified**

Chinese researchers have finally identified the virus behind the strange cases of pneumonia reported in Wuhan since mid-December – it would be a corona virus, a family of viruses at the origin of diseases of various severity, from the common cold to Sars.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this is a new corona virus “different from those previously discovered and more scientific research is needed for greater understanding.”

At the moment there is no evidence that the new virus is easily transmissible from man to man. Since last month, a total of 59 cases have been reported in the city of Wuhan, in 15 of which corona virus turned out to be the pathogen of the infection.

As in the case of Sars, the epidemic could have started from contact with wild animals since almost all the affected individuals worked in a fish market where wild species, such as pheasants and snakes, were also present.

No deaths have been reported so far, although seven people are in serious condition – 8 were discharged from the hospital with no more symptoms. During the 2003 Sars outbreak,



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nearly 800 people were killed.

Unlike then, this time the response of the Chinese authorities has won the acclaim of the World Health Organization.

### **Tmall, a Support of Gay Couples**

Lunar New Year is one of the rare occasions when Chinese families gather under one roof. For many undeclared homosexuals, however, the party is a source of embarrassment and coincides with long interrogations about that heir who strangely never arrives.

Tmall, Alibaba's retail site, decided to break with tradition by launching a video dedicated to the return home of gay and lesbian couples.

The clip, which captures the presentation of their mates to their parents, was made to attract purchases before the holiday.

It therefore has first and foremost commercial purposes. But the underlying message did not go unnoticed, winning the approval of much of the web.

According to a report released by Euromonitor, the economy driven by China's LGBT community – which has more than 70 million individuals – was already worth 300 billion dollars a year in 2017.

### **Douyin, Beyond the Numbers**

As many as 400 million daily active users – this is the goal reached by Douyin, the Chinese microvideo app known abroad as Tik Tok, which in 2019 has seen the number of its users increase by 90%.

According to its parent company ByteDance Ltd. on Sunday, the backward northeastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang dominate the top five of the most active regions on the platform, although the top spot is ahead of Beijing.

As is often the case, online behavior also reveals interesting information about users' lifestyle habits – In fact, the report confirms that while those born in the 1970s are more

inclined to share food videos, the previous generation prefers group dances and anime and animals.

But Douyin, as they say, is not just pure garbage- the platform seems to have served to give visibility to 93% of the 1,372 articles classified as national intangible cultural heritage.

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**Dr.Luciano Magaldi**

Dr. Luciano Magaldi Orta Nova, after his PhD in Cloud Computing at Cloud University by Rackspace in San Antonio, Texas, a Master of Science in Security Engineering at Cibrary Faculty of Washington, the Tesol certificate at Arizona State University in Tempe, a Bachelor of arts in Interpreting and Translating at Lus Pio V in Rome, an SEO specialization at the University of California Davis (UC Davis), a DSA specialisation at the University of London, an ETL specialisation at the Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona, an academic diploma in Forensic Sciences at Oxford Royale Academy, a specialising certificate in American Politics at Harvard Kennedy School, a professional certificate in mathematics at Stanford University, a Copyright Law certificate at MIT in Cambridge, used to work for Google Ireland in Dublin, Apple European campus in Cork, Ireland, and Amazon Slovakia in Bratislava. Dr. Luciano Magaldi finally obtained his specialisation in journalism at Michigan State University School of Journalism. His career as a journalist began writing articles for AgoraVox France and AgoraVox Italia about world politics, military issues and cyber-tech.

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# Reviewing the Shangri-La Dialogue 2022: What it means for Regional Security



Published 5 days ago on July 14, 2022

By **Haris Bilal Malik**

US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin meets with Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, June 10, 2022.  
(Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Defense)

The 19<sup>th</sup> IISS [Shangri-La Dialogue](#) (SLD), one of the premier defence and security dialogues related to the Indo-Pacific region, was recently held in Singapore from 10-12 June 2022. The dialogue, organised by the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), London, was held after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's dialogue was significant in many ways, especially given the international security environment dominated by the Russia-Ukraine war, United States-China strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific region, and US engagements with countries like India in the broader regional context, just to mention a few.

The SLD serves as an important forum for countries like the US and China to share their visions and policies vis-à-vis key regional and international security issues. This year, India's

presence as an important regional player was also very prominent. Since the announcement of the US' Indo-Pacific Strategy which identifies China as a 'strategic competitor' and under

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# Did China place a losing bet on Russia?



Published 1 week ago on July 9, 2022

By **Hemant Adlakha**



*Early in the Russia-Ukraine war, having placed the bet on Vladimir Putin, China was declared by most international analysts as among the war's biggest losers. Four months later and with no sign of war ending any time soon, some observers are reminding us China has a record of winning despite betting on losers.*

Given one's political outlook, both Russia and the United States can be blamed for the outbreak of and dragging on of the brutal war in Ukraine. While Moscow is being faulted for "its flagrant violation" of the prohibition of aggressive war, Washington on the other hand is accused of "irresponsible statecraft" and "imprudent geopolitics." At the same time, though China is not directly involved in the geopolitics of the Ukrainian conflict and nor is Beijing geographically anywhere near the Russia-Ukraine conflict zone, yet worsening US-China political rivalry and growing China-Russia "no limit" mutual commitment in recent years has ensured Beijing too must share blame for abdicating the responsibility of a "trusted

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# Resurrecting the Degrowth Debate in China



Published 2 weeks ago on July 8, 2022

By **Ni Made Diah Apsari Dewi**

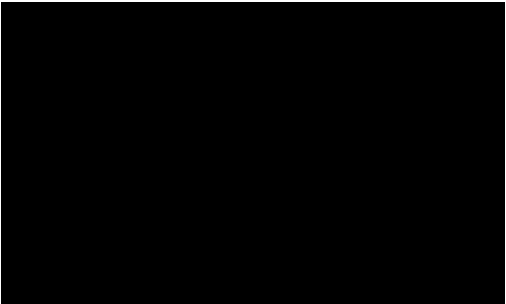
The 2022 IPCC report said that unless we limit our emission so that it does not exceed a 1.5°C rise in temperature, it is very likely that human and nature will face “additional severe risk (..) and some will be irreversible, even if global warming is reduced” (IPCC, 2022). Some say that degrowth – a call to radically implement a structural change to stop the harmful environmental effect of constant economic growth – might be the only reasonable solution to the current environmental crisis.

China becomes both an interesting and important case study when talking about degrowth. It is interesting because it is one of the world’s largest economies – the second richest country ranked by its GDP — that is still currently growing (Silver, 2021). Degrowth proponents might

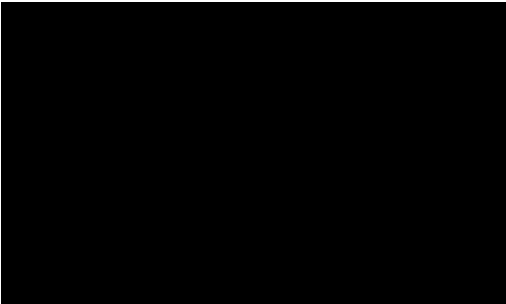
think that this economic boom will lead to environmental breakdown. However, China is now turning greener faster than other countries and showing a fall in CO2 emissions by 1.4% in the first three months of 2022 (Brown, 2021; Mullwirth, 2022). Talking about China in the

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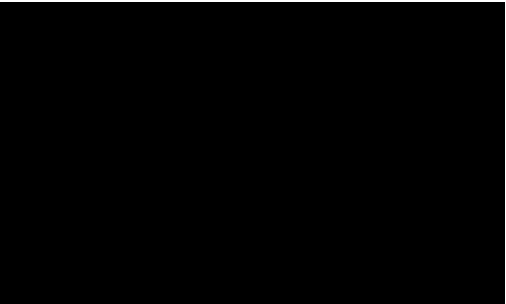
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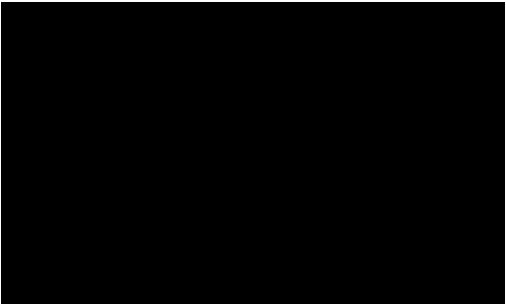
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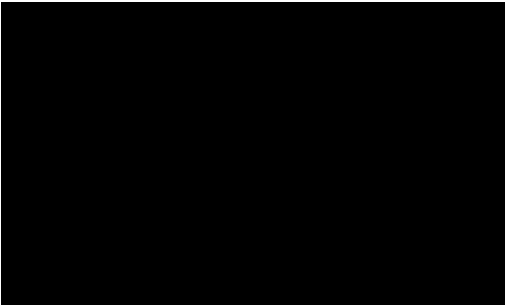
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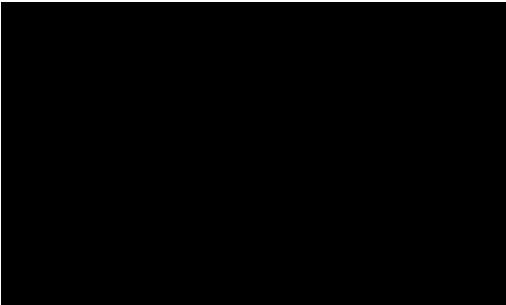
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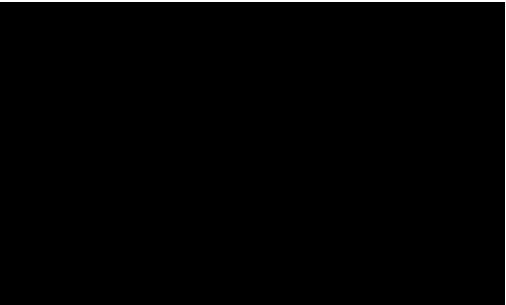
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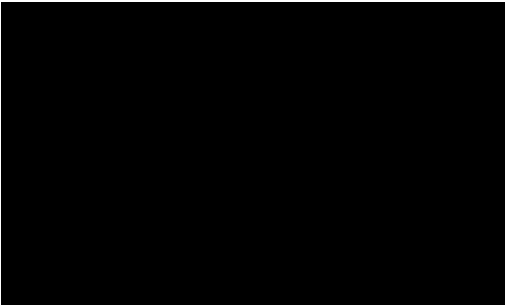
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